

HCS HB 936 -- PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Health Care by a vote of 5 to 2.

This substitute changes the laws regarding chemical abortions and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).

The substitute requires the administration of RU-486 (mifepristone) or any other abortion-inducing drug or chemical to occur in the same room and in the physical presence of the physician who prescribed, dispensed, or otherwise provided the drug or chemical to the patient. The physician or a person acting on the physician's behalf must make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the patient returns within 12 to 18 days after the administration or use of any abortion-inducing drug or chemical for a follow-up visit to confirm the termination of the pregnancy and assess the patient's medical condition. At a minimum, the physician must include in the patient's medical records the date, time, and name of the person attempting to ensure that the patient returns for the follow-up visit.

By January 1, 2014, the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts in the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration and the State Board of Nursing in the division must establish the Utilization of Telehealth by Nurses. An APRN who provides nursing services in accordance with a collaborative practice arrangement under Section 334.204, RSMo, is permitted to provide the services outside the geographic proximity requirements of the collaborative practice arrangement if the collaborating physician and APRN utilize telehealth in the care of the patient and if the nurse is providing services in a rural area located in a health professional shortage area in Missouri. All telehealth providers are required to obtain patient consent before telehealth services are initiated and ensure confidentiality of medical information.

The provisions of the substitute will expire six years after the effective date.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will provide access to health care throughout Missouri and especially in areas that are currently underserved. The mileage restriction for nurses practicing under a collaborative practice arrangement prevents the nurse from serving areas in need of health care services. The University of Missouri currently has over 200 telehealth sites throughout Missouri and the bill will assist in increasing the

number of sites throughout Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri Nurses Association; Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics; Stephen R. Smith, M.D.; and Missouri Dermatological Society Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they would be okay with the bill if the language was slightly changed.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri State Medical Association.